

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 DRC-01 SR-02 ORM-03 SCA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

AID-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DPW-01 EA-11 /163 W

----- 103393

R 151015Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7303

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KARACHI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 0222

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PFOR, BG, NP

SUBJECT: REPATRIATION OF DISPLACED PAKISTANIS

REF: KATHMANDU 4629

1. SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO UNHCR, MR. P. COAT, VISITED KATHMANDU JANUARY 6-9. ON CONCLUSION TO HIS VISIT, UNDP OFFICE PUT OUT PRESS RELEASE REPORTING COAT'S COMMENTS ON HIS VISIT. COAT STRESSED NON-BENGALIS WHO RESIDED IN BANGLADESH HAVE BEEN STRONGLY ADVISED AGAINST GOING TO KATHMANDU, AS THOSE WHO ARE CLEARED BY PAKISTAN WILL BE REPATRIATED MORE EASILY FROM BANGLADESH THAN NEPAL. HE ADDED THAT THOSE WHO DO NOT HEED THIS ADVICE DO SO AT THEIR OWN RISK AND SHOULD REALIZE THAT UN IS IN NO POSITION TO PROVIDE "ANY ASSISTANCE" TO THEM IN NEPAL. COAT NOTED THAT UNHCR HAD BEEN ABLE IN RECENT MONTHS TO MAKE AVAILABLE SOME UNUTILIZED CAPACITY IN CHARTER FLIGHTS FROM BANGLADESH TO PAKISTAN. TO DATE, OVER 8,000 PERSONS HAVE BEEN FOWN TO PAKISTAN. FLIGHTS WERE RESUMED ON DECEMBER 15, 1973, AND ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN A FEW DAYS. TOTAL NUMBER OF
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THOS REPATRIATED FROM KATHMANDU WILL THEN BE ABOUT 9,000.

COAT ALSO NOTED THAT CHARTER PLANES HAVE ALSO BROUGHT RELIEF GOODS TO KATHMANDU DONATED BY PAKISTAN VALUED AT SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS. HE CONCLUDED THAT, SHOULD IT PROVE POSSIBLE IN FUTURE TO ARRANGE AGAIN "OCCASIONAL" FLIGHTS VIA KATHMANDU, OPPORTUNITY WOULD NO DOUBT BE SEIZED; BUT INDICATIONS ARE*THAT NUMBER OF PASSENGERS BETWEEN DACCA AND KARACHI WILL BE BALANCED IN FUTURE WHICH WOULD, THEREFORE, MAKE DETOUR VIA KATHMANDU IMPRACTICAL.

2. ACCORDING TO SUBSEQUENT REPORT ISSUED*B* OFFICIAL NEPALESE NEWS AGENCY, RSS, 2400 PAKISTANI NATIONALS STRANDED IN KATHMANDU HAVE BEEN REPATRIATED ON 22 REPATRIATION FLIGHTS IN LAST 30 DAYS. CITING PAKISTANI EMBASSY SOURCES, REPORT STATES THAT REMAINING 3500 PAKISTANI NATIONALS COULD BE REPATRIATED WITHIN FOUR WEEKS IF FLIGHTS COULD BE OPERATED ON REGULAR BASIS.

3. COMMENT: THERE REMAINS SOME CONFUSION AS TO NUMBER OF BIHARIS WHO ARE ELEIGIBLE FOR REPATRIATION. PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR INAYATULLA TOLD AMBASSADOR CARGO THAT HE WAS CONTINUING TO GET CLEARANCES FROM ISLAMABAD ONLY FOR ABOUT 150 BIHARIS PER WEEK. THERE WERE IN TOTAL, HE SAID, ABOUT 5,000 WHO DID NOT HAVE APPROVAL AND WHO DID NOT FIT IN APPROVED CATEGORIES FOR REPATRIATION. THESE REPORTEDLY INCLUDED SOME INDIAN BIHARIS WHO HAD COME TO NEPAL IN HOPE OF MIGRATION TO PAKISTAN VIA REPATRIATION FLIGHTS. HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE THAT GOP WOULD BE PARTICULARLY LIBERAL WITH RESPECT TO RMAINING REFUGEES. UNDP OFFICE IN KATHMANDU BELIEVES THAT IF IMPASSE OVER REPATRIATION OF RESIDUAL REFUGEE COMMUNITY NOT RESOLVED, IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE TO POST UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE TO KATHMANDU, IF ONLY ON TEMPORARY BASIS TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS OF REMAINING REFUGEES. UNDP HERE ANTICIPATES THAT PRC POLITICAL OBJECTIONS WOULD PRECLUDE REOPENING OF UNHCR OFFICE ON PERMANENT BASIS.

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